

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 3-9, 11-19, and 21, of which claims 15-19 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 10, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Dependent claim 21 is newly added. Of the claims under consideration, only claim 1 is independent.

The amendments to independent claim 1 are supported in the specification at least at page 14, line 26 through page 15, line 1, and new claim 21 is supported in the specification at least at page 15, lines 1-3.

The invention as set forth in independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a recording medium residual amount detecting device and comprises external force applying means for applying an external force for a recording medium group in a thickness direction and an external force detector that detects the external force applied to the recording medium group. The invention is characterized in that the external force detector is disposed such that the recording medium group is set in a position between the external force applying means and the external force detector and, as amended, is further characterized in that the external force applying means is capable of applying a voltage having a predetermined frequency.

Independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kologziej (U.S. Patent No. 6,585,344). In view of the above amendments and the reasons which follow, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kologziej is directed to a printing mechanism which has a print media tray for supporting a supply of print media and a sensor operably associated with the print media tray. The sensor is configured to ascertain a measure associated with an amount of print media in the

print media tray and in conjunction with a processor determines the number of remaining sheets of print media. However, Kologziej does not teach or suggest an external force applying means that is capable of applying a voltage having a predetermined frequency. Thus, independent claim 1 is distinguishable over the applied art.

Claim 1, as amended, also provides advantages that are neither taught nor suggested by the art, and it is respectfully submitted that such claim would not have been obvious in view of that prior art. More specifically, in a case where a voltage having a predetermined frequency supplied, one is able to detect a change of the maximum value of the voltage and also a change of the frequency, components such as a period. Thus, the residual amount of paper sheets can be detected with enhanced precision.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims under consideration in the above-identified application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

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